The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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BORAH'S WAR SPEECH THRILLS U. S. SENATE

Washington, March 23.—In a speech that thrilled the United States senate, last week, Senator Borah of Idaho swept aside as incidental to autocratic-war methods the wrongs inflicted upon Belgium and declared that the present world war is a life and death struggle between two forces contending for and against free government. "Autocratic institutions—a cordict which cannot end until one or the other absolutely fails.

"Shall men be governed by some remorseless military machine, softly called the state," he asked, "or shall the instrumentality of government, yield alone and at all times to the wants and necessities, the hopes and aspirations of the masses? That is the issue of war. Nothing should longer conceal it. It is but another and more stupendous phase of the old struggle, a struggle as ancient and as inevitable as the thirst for power and the love of liberty, a struggle in which men have fought and sacrificed all the way from Marathon to Gettysburg.

"The policy of Frederick the Great, which would make of all human action but a vast and complex military machine, and the policies of George Washington, which would make of action the expression and the instrument of popular power, are contending for supremacy on the battle fields of Europe. To lose sight of this fact is to miss the supreme purpose of war. To set aside this issue all other issues are trivial.

"Democracy is the severest test of character which can be put upon a people and must be earned and acquired in the school of hard experience. It cannot be handed whole and complete to any people though every nation and community were a Socrates. But what we have determined in this crisis, and it is essential, is that we will keep the road of democracy open. No one shall close it."

SEES NO LABOR SHORTAGE.

New York, March 23.—The fears of a labor shortage at the present time are groundless, said Charles E. Barnes, director of the bureau of employment of the state industrial commission, in a speech in this city.

Not only is there no shortage, he said, but about two months ago in New York there was no enforced idleness for a good many men, Mr. Barnes asserted, but the call for help was for the employment of women as conductors and subway guards.

"As for the labor shortage itself, take New York state for example. There are more than 1,000,000 men here in the last census as being employed in gainful occupations. About 125,000 were out of work. I am not that small per cent quite is there any reason now for taking on women as substitutes for men. I am not against women going into industry—and the time may come when they will have to fill men's places here—but the situation requires careful study. We should not be too hasty selected in many cases for the positions they had on subway and surface traffic."

REGULATE WOMEN WORKERS.

Albany, N. Y., March 23.—Senator Nicoll can see nothing unusual in women operating street cars or subway entrances, in the opinion of the prosperity regulated. In a bill introduced in the state legislature he would put limits to the employment of women under 21 years and where adult women are employed they shall not work more than 8 hour week. Work before 6 in the morning and after 9 in the evening is prohibited.

It would be illegal, under Senator Nicoll's plan, to employ any woman within four weeks before or after birth to a child. The "teeth" in this section are removed, however, as it is provided that these women shall not "knowingly be employed."

WAGE STATISTICS.

Boston, March 23.—In a report by the state bureau of statistics it is shown that in 1915 54 per cent of nearly half a million adult wage earners in this state received between $8 and $15 a week. In 1916 the wages of 44,305 male adults ranged between $8 and $15 a week.

The wages of men, women and children employed in 1,000 steam laundries in 1916 averaged a little over $10 a week.

HUGE PROFIT IN SUGAR.

New York, March 23.—Last year was the most prosperous in the history of the American Sugar Refining company, according to its financial report just issued. The total business amounted to $300,000,000, from which a profit of $10,065,721 was derived.

EMPLOYERS JOLTED BY FEDERAL AGENT

Washington, March 23.—Employers are jolted in a statement by Roger W. Babson, of the Boston statistician, who is assisting the United States employment service.

After visiting chambers of commerce and other business groups in western cities, Mr. Babson says he returns convinced of three things:

"The labor difficulty at present is one of improper distribution rather than of shortage. The complaints of manufacturers, I found, have arisen not so much from difficulty in obtaining labor but from their difficulty in obtaining it at the prices which the manufacturers are willing to pay. My principal difficulty was in convincing manufacturers of the increase in the cost of living to wage earners and in the reasonableness of advancing wages commensurate to the advances in the price of materials.

"Manufacturers who are not complaining about paying wages from 50 per cent or more for material are strenuously objecting to paying a fraction of this amount for labor.

"I started on my trip with the idea of educating workers to the difficulty and needs of the present situation. I returned with the idea that manufacturers, especially those in the localities, need fully as much "missionary work" as do the workers.

"In many cases workers are more liberal than wage earners. They cheerfully pay heavy taxes, give bountifully to the Red Cross and other war organizations, are willing to work in Washington for $1 a year, and permit their wives to knit from morning to night; but there is one thing which they still refuse to do—give up one-tenth of so-called 'inherited rights' of the employing class.' Like the weakest link of a chain, this may be the weakness of our whole industrial structure today."

WON'T MEET WORKERS OF ENEMY COUNTRIES

Washington, March 22.—In cable to Albert Thomas and Arthur Henderson, French and English laborites, President Compers explains that insufficient time to reach London, after receipt of the invitation, made it impossible for American trade unionists to be represented at the recent interallied labor conference.

"We cannot meet fact and fraternal greetings to interallied labor conference and assurance that American people are united in struggle for world justice and freedom." said President Gompers.

"American Federation or Labor responsible only for cable sent you by its representatives and not for cable-gram garbled in press. American labor glad to meet with representative labor movements of allied countries but refuse to meet representatives of the labor movements of enemy countries while they are fighting against democracy and world freedom. Democracy must and will stroy autocracy there must be hearty co-operation among workers and we therefore do not hesitate with complete understanding and good will between workers of America and allied countries, a delegation representing American labor will shortly visit England, France and Italy for conference and co-operate in furtherance of the cause of labor and world democracy."

DAYLIGHT BILL SIGNED.

Washington, March 23.—The president has signed the daylight saving bill, recently passed by congress. Under this legislation all government offices will set their clocks forward beginning March 31. On the last Sunday in October of each year they are to be turned back one hour. It is expected that all citizens will accept this plan.

The effect of the law will be to educate people to arise one hour earlier in the summer time, thus taking advantage of more daylight.

The new system will work out in practice as follows: The man who leaves his home at 7 o'clock in the morning will still leave at 7 by the clock, but at 6 by sun time, but when the man goes home at 5 o'clock in the afternoon by the clock he will be going home at 4 o'clock sun time.

Under the caption "Beating Time," the Washington Post makes the following editorial comment on the new law:

"Naturally, some will ask why folks don't call it 'saving' an hour earlier instead of including in the fiction of moving the hands of the clock an hour forward. The answer to this is more practical than theoretical consideration might lead one to expect. To begin with, 'half past nine' or any other hour is easier to say than to get but a fiction. There is no such thing in reality. It is just an arbitrary division of the day for convenience.

"But an untold number of business activities are based upon these established hours. Time tables, working schedules, a whole host of things are set by the 'official' circle around the long-established location of 'nine thirty,' 'high noon' or some other hour of the day. To say that one does under daylight saving legislation is to go to work an hour earlier."

WOULD MAKE IDLERS WORK.

Atlanta, Ga., March 22.—Governor Dorsey's instructions are compiled every time a fashionable club and along country road will be given his choice of doing extensive work on the roads by the chain gang. The state executive has addressed a communication to county councils of decrees in the state requesting them to put into operation the following plan:

1. Join forces with their sheriffs, solicitors and superior court judges in arrest and convict all vagrants.

2. To give the vagrants the choice of going to the chain gang or going to the farms, and permit them to work on farms under proper supervision.

3. Follow up the prosecution of vagrants with the utmost persistence and vigor, making it certain of punishment for vagrancy, that idle men will go to work voluntarily.

RETAIL CLERKS ENJOINED.

St. Louis, Mo., March 22.—Federal Judge Sanborn has issued a temporary injunction restraining retail clerks employed by the Kroger Grocery and Baking company. The clerks are ordered not to "interfere" with clerks or customers of the Kroger stores.

The company alleged that the strikers threatened to violently assault customers and loyal employes.

The trade unionists see why criminal warrants are not sworn out against those guilty of these acts of murder, instead of permitting a court to act in the combined capacity of judge, law enforcer and executioner.

JURIES HAND PICKED.

Seattle, March 22.—In a report on methods employed in the selection of federal grand juries an investigating committee appointed by the central labor council reports:

"From the information at hand we are led to believe that the methods of summoning jurors in these trials (of working men) are loose and are susceptible of vicious practices whenever so determined by those conducting the trials."

A MODERN SOLOMON

New Philadelphia, Ohio, March 23. Issuing an injunction against striking employes of the Reliance Stamping and Enameling company Judge Richard Lee, presiding over local authorities, ruled that while the unionists may quit their employment they have no right to commit violence.

The strikers were duly impressed by the profound knowledge of this modern Solomon.

RAISE WAGES 20 PER CENT.

Augusta, Ga., March 22.—The Augusta Railway & Electric corporation has raised wages of its motormen and conductors 20 per cent as a result of the present situation. It returned with the idea that manufacturers, especially those in the localities, need fully as much "missionary work" as do the workers.

"In many cases workers are more liberal than wage earners. They cheerfully pay heavy taxes, give bountifully to the Red Cross and other war organizations, are willing to work in Washington for $1 a year, and permit their wives to knit from morning to night; but there is one thing which they still refuse to do—give up one-tenth of so-called 'inherited rights' of the employing class.' Like the weakest link of a chain, this may be the weakness of our whole industrial structure today."

COOPERS RAISE WAGES.

New York, March 22.—Organized coopers have in this city raised wages to $5 for a nine-hour day. Overtime rates are 90 cents an hour, with double time for Sunday and holiday work.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Houston, Tex., March 23.—Carpenters in this city have secured a new wage agreement which raises rates from 55 to 65 a day.

FOOD SUBSTITUTES OPPOSED BY CHEMIST

Philadelphia, March 23.—Food substitutes are flooding the market and are increasing rather than decreasing the cost of living, said Charles H. LaWall, state chemist, in an address to dairy and food commissioners of many states, asserting that laws are being violated, and urging vigorous prosecutions. He declared if the sale of these food substitutes is permitted to continue, contentended the American people will be defrauded of much money that should be used for the purchase of foods of known values.

"By far the most important class of substitutes on the market," Mr. LaWall said, "is the egg substitutes. The careless and indiscriminate use of the words, 'imitation,' 'artificial' and 'synthetic' as well as the most leading and ambiguous word 'compound,' should be controlled by specific law enactments. All the egg substitutes contain elements of fraud and deception. They do not even replace the food values of eggs. The presence of yellow coloring matter is for the deception, and the purpose of making the articles preparated by their use possess the appearance of eggs. Sometimes they also are made up of constituents bearing no resemblance to eggs, even to the normal constituents of eggs.

"An egg ranges in food-producing value from 70 to 80 calories. No egg substitute has been seen which contains more than 15 calories to the level tablespoonful.

"The product turned out by the so-called 'process' merged is not butter, but butter mixed with milk. It, therefore, contains nearly 40 per cent of water instead of not more than 16 per cent, as required by law. One may as well dilute his milk with water at the start as to use a procedure unless one expects to cat twice as much of it as the real article, and in that case the nourishment has disappeared.

"It is just plain fraud, and most harmful, to use an instrument known as the 'homogenizer,' which reduces the fat globules of milk to a more perfect emulsion of milk or cream and at the same time incorporating either butter or some foreign fat to increase the richness. This instrument has made it possible to put upon the market milk found to add foreign fats to skimmed milk, thereby making a substituted cream which can be detected only by close chemical analysis."

MAIN "KNOW HOW" IS ASSET.

Philadelphia, March 23.—That the government is interested in saving the Hog island ship yard situation is indicated by the dismissal of Manager Frank Hibben. Mr. Hibben, it is said, has been receiving a salary of $25,000 a year. The charges offered by the president of the American international shipbuilding corporation, which will make a profit of between $5,000,000 and $7,000,000 for possessing the "know how" of building ships, although it was the first venture of the concern.

It is intimated that other "know how" men will be let go, because of their refusal to accept responsibility and their failure to produce results.

WHY LABOR IS "SCARCE."

Columbus, Ohio, March 23.—Thos. J. Donnelly, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio federation of labor, has called trade unionists against claims by the chamber of commerce, Tiffin, Ohio, that there is a scarcity of labor in that city.

"There has been a great deal of industrial strife in Tiffin because of poor wages, bad conditions and a refusal of the employers to deal with employes," writes the federation executive.

"Central bodies should protect workers from going to that city because of misrepresentation as to conditions and the attitude of those employers."

WOULD AID GOVERNMENT.

Seattle, March 22.—When striking employes went out on strike the Pacific Flouring Mills company were informed that their action was delaying a boat to be loaded with government flour, the strikers notified government officials that they would load the boat if the company would sign the call and the check should be made payable to the Flour and Cereal Mill Workers' union. Many days of "strife of the soldiers' and sailors' tobacco fund.

TO ARBITRATE STRIKE.

New Haven, Conn., March 23.—After a trivial one day strike for better conditions, cigar manufacturers have concluded to accept the offer of their cigar makers and will arbitrate.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Portland, Me., March 22.—Organized painters have increased wage from 41 to 45 cents an hour after a week's strike.

SHIP YARDS' UNREST TRACED TO EMPLOYERS

New Orleans, March 22.—"If capitalists had considered the interests of working men as much as their own, and had fairly met their demands, this factor in our ship building program would not be a problem," said Miss Marshall Miller, in a talk before the Business Women's Economic and Political Science association.

In charging that some of America's captains of industry have failed to grasp the morale of their men, the speaker said:

"Labor's right to combine, nominally commended by employers, sometimes of bitter opposition, is even now nullified with one hand, where granted with the other. Such action, as a result is found loyal and obedient, not to his employer, but to the agents of labor unions, for him better wages, shorter hours, safer working conditions, and protection from accidents.

"No more heroic form of altruism than the sympathetic strike can be found." The sympathetic strike entitlists can afford to wait adjustment of disputes. But labor is the most perishable of all products—a day lost is lost forever, and it is all the working man has to sell—his day's work.

"It is just because of strikes dreaded by waiting delegates," she continued, "but nothing of the hundreds of strikes prevented by these same officials when investigation by the statistic machinery of the various local and general unions shows that they are not justified."

Collective bargaining Mrs. Miller described as "a device to prevent hard bargains between the bungry and the well-fed." She declared that one infant mortality that life depends upon wages.

FEEDING OF CHILDREN NATION'S FIRST DUTY

Washington, March 22.—"Children first" should be the motto of the national food slogan," says the children's bureau of the federal department of labor in a bulletin on "Milk, the indispensable Food for Children."

"The result of unbridling or indiscriminate food substitution in childhood are startlingly shown abroad as to the effect of the ban and boycott to be evident in our own great cities," it is stated. "The nourishment of our children is the first duty of the nation. Since milk and milk products are a vital necessity for children, for nursing mothers, and for the sick and wounded, the public should be made aware that there is no need for dairy products should be assured.

"It is the duty now of every individual to see to it that the little children have milk of good quality and in sufficient amount to assure their normal development. To do this the price of milk must be controlled or fixed, and the milk supply to infants and children carefully safeguarded. The malnutrition of our children is far greater than the serious national problem and one demanding urgent attention. Poverty and ignorance of dietary principles are however ever-present factors in the malnutrition of the poor, but many children can not fail to increase in severity of the situation and the difficulties of maintaining the health of the nation.

It is stated that England and Italy have regulated the sale of cream and have limited the use of butter, in order that their child population may receive the more adequate and economical nourishment afforded by whole milk. Germany, early in the war, prohibited the feeding of cream to calves in order that their milk supply might have milk only after the needs of children, mothers, invalids, and the army were met.

BAR AMERICAN FLAG.

San Juan, Porto Rico, March 21.—Authorities have prohibited striking cane field workers to parade, hold meetings or carry the flag of the United States of L. Organizer Iglesias, who is a member of the Porto Rican legislature, says the telegraph company refused to accept a telegram he would forward to an official in Washington. He was held to be a criticism on Gov. Yager and as such forbidden under the censorship law of the nation.

Iglesias took the matter up with the governor, who telephoned to the telegraph office to forward the message.

The strikers are asking wage increases to replace present rates of 80 and 95 cents a day. The employers have refused to grant their sugar from $1.25 to $6.25 a hundred pounds. Most of this industry is operated by the American Sugar Refining Co., which has been receiving a salary of $25,000 a year. The charges offered by the president of the American international shipbuilding corporation, which will make a profit of between $5,000,000 and $7,000,000 for possessing the "know how" of building ships, although it was the first venture of the concern.

It is intimated that other "know how" men will be let go, because of their refusal to accept responsibility and their failure to produce results.

M'ADOO'S SHARP PEN.

Washington, March 22.—In one sentence Treasurer William G. McAdoo has notified private insurance companies that if they oppose the government and ask their workers' insurance they themselves will be their losers.

A New York life insurance company official was falsely advertising that government bonds were a poor investment while opposing the war risk insurance. Secretary McAdoo wrote the company a letter, and wrote with this significant statement:

"A propaganda against the war risk insurance bill will be treason and I shall be very happy to meet it. Such a propaganda will be opposed by many beneficial results in defeating the fold of the war risk insurance bureau's activities."

MUST-WORK IDEA SPREADS.

Wilmington, Del., March 22.—This state is the latest to talk of putting the conscription law into operation that works for wages on a military basis. In a bill introduced in the Delaware legislature, creating a state council of defense, it is provided that one of the duties of the council shall be:

"To enroll men not in the national army for compulsory service in this state and for carrying on agriculture and industries and all necessary enterprises which may be found necessary for the performance of such labor and such military or other services as shall be necessary to carry out the objects for this act."

STRIKEBREAKERS PROFIT.

Camas, Wash., March 23.—The Crown Willamette Paper company will raise wages of its strikebreakers, but not the strikers, in an indirect manner to show their independence by striking for living wages. The company has increased the pay of its "free and independents" 47 cents a day. This is 23 cents more than the striking employes asked, and a refusal of which caused the present strike.

VOTE ON PENSION PLAN.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 22.—Shall we raise our international per capita from $4.20 a year to $12, and pay it at the rate of $1 a month, and thus be able to establish an old-age pension fund for our membership?

This question is now before the referendum of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Finishers' International association, after several years' discussion.

"BUSINESS WILL ADJUST."

New York, March 22.—In one of the concluding paragraphs of his annual report, Theodore N. Vail, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, made this statement that trade unionists may well remember:

"Business will adjust itself to any condition or to variations of condition which come gradually."

LEATHER WORKERS GAIN.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 22.—Leather Workers' union No. 4, whose members are employed in the manufacture of trunks, suit cases and traveling bags, has secured a union-shop agreement. The work day is reduced from nine hours to eight and the minimum scale is increased from $2.75 to $3.25 a day with time and one-half for overtime.

WIRE MEN WANT MORE.

Seattle, March 22.—Electrical Workers' union No. 46 has presented a new wage agreement which raises rates from 75 to 85 a day.

"LABOR QUESTION" FINALLY ATTRACTS

Philadelphia, March 22.—Last month the Engineering News-Record, New York, astounded large employers by its "labor" declaration. That is the future labor "will demand a voice in each industry in determining the conditions under which it shall work."

This publication made similar statements which have been made in season and out of season by trade unionists, but whose protests have been answered with strikebreakers, injunctions and, in the public market through stimulated immigration.

The war, however, has awakened many employers to the fact that they are confronted by a "labor question" that will not down, as indicated by the Public Ledger, in an editorial which asks:

"How do you labor troubles? Cease, for five minutes, blaming labor. Perhaps-perchance it is your own fault. Can your men find decent homes within range of your factory? What kind of transportation do they get to and from their work? How about your system of employment? Do minor officials in authority over them act as foremen 'fire' arbitrarily? Do they disrespectfully to applicants the condition of labor in your plant? Do they handle the men tactlessly after they get them? Have you studied the matter of skill by cutting down piece-work rates as workmen increase their productivity? Have they a chance for 'driving' their men at low wages?

"How large is your labor turnover? Don't you know that democracy, which is to labor, what bitter feelings of hostility and suspicion you arouse when there is a constant procession of men into your employment and out of it in search of a job? Democracy answers above? Are you aware of the fact, demonstrated within the past months by more than one large corporation, contracts aggregating billions, that in time of alleged labor scarcity there was ample labor in your own fields, discontented laborers drifting about from employer to employer in intolerable conditions of employment, which are traceable primarily to lack of management."

STRIKE FIGURES FAULTY.

Albany, N. Y., March 23.—To speak of the number of days' continuance of a strike as time lost, is a misnomer, declares the state industrial commissioner. Mr. Barnes says the figures have no bearing on the employer coercion. It is their answer to the employer's refusal to grant the workers necessities to coerce that worker into acceptance of the lowwage consistent with subsistence. The employer appeals to 'natural law' where there are such factors in the situation, with the employer in control of the job. To correct that 'natural law' a collective bargaining agreement must come into existence and it will remain until there comes into action the principle of making natural law natural."

DOUBLE PLATOON PAYS.

Chicago, March 23.—A nine months' experiment in the double platoon movement under the two-platoon and the 24-hour systems proves that the formation plan has verified its advocates' claims.

The average time lost to the city, per member, on account of sickness for the last nine months of 1916 under the old system was 2.46 days. Under the double platoon system for the corresponding nine months of 1917 the lost time was 2.26 days, a reduction of 12.6 per cent. Trial board cases were reduced from 72 to 44 cases, or 38.9 per cent. Resignations were cut 50 per cent, notwithstanding the added war hazard during the time that the new system has been effective.

SHOE WORKERS GAIN.

Boston, March 23.—Officers of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union report several important gains made by craftsmen. In Brockton, Mass., rates for vamp cutters are increased to $3.50 with proportionate gains in hand work. Former rates were $12.99 per hand, $22.99 for machine. Other shoe manufacturers in that city are offering a straight 10 per cent increase.

Rockland, Mass., cutters raised $1.50 a week. Rates are now $18 and $20 for machine work.

Lynn, Mass., edgesetters are increased 10 to 20 per cent and similar gains are recorded in Haverhill, St. Louis, Mo., Cincinnati and other cities.

LESS AUTOMOBILES.

New York, March 23.—War munitions is replacing the manufacture of automobiles, and at the meeting of the national automobile chamber of commerce it was agreed to curtail production 50 per cent for the year 1918.

RAISE WAGES $2 A WEEK.

Cincinnati, March 23.—A wage increase of $2 a week has been granted by Carriage Drivers and Chauffeurs' union.

RECONSTRUCTION IN ENGLAND IS STUDIED

Washington, March 22.—While England is fighting the enemy and bringing into the war against the kaiser she is also preparing for the after-war period. This is revealed by a report transmitted to the United States government by Consul General Skinner at London, which indicates the wide scope of a study conducted by the British ministry of reconstruction.

Commissions and committees appointed in Great Britain since the beginning of the war, under the reconstruction committee, number 47, and these are grouped in a general General Skinner's report as follows:

Trade development, under which grouping fall five committees dealing with general aspects and nine dealing with specific aspects of the situation.

Finance, with six committees.

Raw materials, with six committees.

Coal and power, with two committees.

Food and nutrition, with four committees.

Intelligence, with two committees.

Commercial intelligence, in connection with two research boards, five standing committees, seven research committees and two subcommittees.

Miscellaneous problems, with three committees.

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SHIP-EMPLOYES GAIN.

San Francisco, March 22.—Several ship companies employed in the Pacific coast trade have raised wages of seamen, quartermasters, watchmen, firemen, oilers and firemen from $60 to $75 a month; carpenters, from $70 to $90 a month; boatswains from $65 to $80. the stewards' departments, from second steward down, rates are advanced from $5 to $10 a month, and that these increases will aggregate $400,000 a year.

WHY MATCHES COST MORE.

New York, March 21.—One reason for the increased cost of matches is shown in the annual report of the Diamond Match company, which for 1917 had $2,627,392 in 1917, an increase of $1,661,225 over the preceding year. The increase is largely due to the $1,340,000 in most federal war taxes, and made larger appropriations than in 1916 for depreciation, bad debts and other adjustments. The net profit of the company was taken when $760,000 was set aside for patents, good will, etc.

HUGE PROFITS; RAISE WAGES

Boston, March 23.—The American Woolen Company announces a 10 per cent wage increase to its employes in Massachusetts, New England and New York.

The recent financial report of this company showed that last year it made a clear profit of $15,844,925, against $10,126,787 in 1916 and $5,196,394 in 1915.

DENIES VOTE TO WOMEN.

Annapolis, Md., March 23.—By a vote of 42 to 39 the house of delegates defeated the bill giving women the right to vote at presidential elections. Opponents of the measure declared such a parliamentary situation that the bill cannot be reconsidered at this session.

AGITATE, EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

PICKETING IS LEGAL.

Phoenix, Ariz., March 22.—Picketing in Arizona is legal and unionists have the right to advertise unfair work conditions.

These rulings have been made by a unanimous opinion by the state supreme court in the case of Bisbee Cooks and Waiters' union versus a restaurant employer in that city.

When the workers strike to enforce living conditions, the employer asked a lower court to issue an injunction against the strikers to stop picketing and advertising his establishment. The lower court refused this request, and the employer appealed to the state supreme court.

The supreme court sustains Arizona law, which permits picketing. In referring to the union's method of advertising, the court said:

"No right of the plaintiff is violated by publishing the facts. Certainly if a controversy between plaintiff and the labor union exists, plaintiff has no legal right to enforce the union to keep the facts secret."

JURISDICTION STRIKES PASSED UP IN CHICAGO

Chicago, March 22.—Jurisdiction disputes in the building trades have been the cause of numerous strikes in the city and now these unions have adopted machinery for settlement of the war, to submit differences to arbitration.

It is agreed that whenever a question of jurisdiction arises, the following shall be immediately submitted for determination according to the rules and laws of the building trades department or any other arbitration board mutually agreed upon, whose decision shall be binding upon the interested parties."

NATION WILL BUILD SHIPS.

New York, March 22.—Writing in the New York Times, Dr. Chas. A. Eaton, head of the national service section, Shipping Board emergency fleet corporation, says:

"The ship yards and the ship managers will be organized almost exactly as good as the rest of the public—to work for the latter. America is getting just as good a shipbuilding program as she deserves—no more and no less. It is a matter of patriotism and intelligence and sacrificial service rises among the people at large, it will rise in the ship yards.

"There is trouble, but there is no more trouble, and it is of the no different kind, than persuades the entire nation. It will be cured, as the other trouble is cured, by the iron discipline of experience. It cannot be cheated or bought or bossed. The heart of the nation is sound. Because we were not prepared, we shall have to pay for it in blood. Before we really get into the fight. We will stand the beating. We will get up. We will fight it out. It is all, and no part of our citizenship will be spared. Due to the ship builders, management and men."

ACCIDENTS DECREASE.

Trenton, N. J., March 21.—As compared with January, accidents in New Jersey industries in February showed a decrease of 444 in the total number, a decrease of 144 in fatal accidents and an increase of 2,736 non-fatal accidents. Of the entire number, 13 fatal and 2,736 non-fatal mishaps occurred in factories. Of fatal accidents occurring in building and construction, 15 non-fatal in mines and quarries, and 4 fatal and 385 non-fatal in miscellaneous occupations.

While the decrease in non-fatal accidents is encouraging, the fact remains that there were a total of 28 fatal and 3,026 non-fatal accidents in February in this state during February.

SPEEDING UP STOPPED.

Wilmington, Del., March 21.—About 300 employes of the Pullman company here went on their strike against poor working conditions. The company has agreed to abolish the speed-up system in the local shops.

The strikers' committee recommended that all employes in the trade hamper movement, and thanks the Wilmington central labor union "for its valuable help in securing for the strikers a fair deal."

In a letter to the strikers' representative, Jean F. Walker, a member of the committee, places the blame for this condition on the company. Intimating that the men can blame the workers if they again resort to drastic action to force this issue, Walker declares that he will accept the government's war-time industrial policy.

"The company writes Walker, 'positively refused to agree to the principle of collective bargaining as a settlement of the existing disputs, notwithstanding the fact that this company has signed a contract with the United States in acting in this matter. The company has this spirit itself accepted the principle of opposition to the war policies of our government in this country.'

"On behalf of the committee I take occasion to express our appreciation of the fair and intelligent attitude taken by yourself and the officers and membership of your two organizations in the present controversies of the trade union movement. It is a pleasure to be privileged to call out your sympathetic attitude."

After stating that the committee will not go back to work until it has appealed to the president, Walker concludes:

In the meantime, you are hereby informed that your officers and members and the entire membership of the Pullman-Bush cities and vicinity are absolved from any further obligation to refrain from any action or inaction in connection with the strike."

STREET CAR COMPANY IGNORES PRESIDENT

St. Paul, Minn., March 22.—The president's resolution commission, appointed by the president as his agency to settle disputes which have failed to adjust the lockout on street car men in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In a letter to the strikers' representative, Jean F. Walker, a member of the committee, places the blame for this condition on the company. Intimating that the men can blame the workers if they again resort to drastic action to force this issue, Walker declares that he will accept the government's war-time industrial policy.

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BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

Milwaukee, March 21.—Brewery employes have signed an agreement with the brewers which increases rates as high as a week in numerous instances. The agreement is effective April 1, 1918, and is effective as of March 1, this year. An eight-hour day in the cellar and stock departments is granted. The work day of chauffeurs has been reduced from nine to eight.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Boston, March 21.—Stationary Firemen's union, No. 752, has signed an agreement with the Boston Elevated Railway company which raises rates from $3 to $3.50 for firemen, coal passers, water tenders and helpers. The agreement is retroactive to March 1, 1918, and will continue until May 1, 1919.

Holyoke, Mass., March 21.—Steam engineers and stationary firemen employed by the Holyoke Street Railway company have been awarded an 18 per cent wage increase by the state board of conciliation and arbitration.

LOSES LEG; GETS $25,000.

White Plains, N. Y., March 21.—The New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad has agreed to pay Peter Fusco $25,000 for the loss of a leg. He was working on a shed near the railroad track, with an iron bar over his shoulder. The bar touched a wire 22 feet from the company's side track. The current, which jumped from the iron bar and 11,000 volts passed through Fusco's body burning the left leg so that he has to amputate it.

OPPOSE WOMEN ON CARS.

Milwaukee, March 23.—The state committee on women in industry, appointed by governor Philipp to investigate conditions affecting women in the state, opposes women street car conductors in Milwaukee, declaring an emergency has not been proven. The committee declares that the employment of men here in the state law which prohibits the employment of women in manufacturing plants after 9 p. m.

4,001 WANT JOBS.

Tacoma, Wash., March 22.—Officers of the city government employment bureau here announce that during the month 4,001 men applied for work and that of this number 1,322 were placed in positions. Of the number called "unskilled laborers."

MINE WORKERS END STRIKE.

Athlon, Mich., March 22.—After a five-week strike the United Mine Workers in this vicinity have won their demand for a wage increase of 50 cents a day.

UNION SHOP FOR PRESSMEN.

San Francisco, March 22.—After a six-weeks' fight, the San Francisco Pressmen's union has signed an agreement with Web Pressmen's union No. 4.